

Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution  
217 A (III) of 10 December 1948

### *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* *Preamble*

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore,

The General Assembly,

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Source : <http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>

## Sixty Years: Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

### The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 1948-2008



In December 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as a bulwark against oppression and discrimination. Covering a range of human rights in 30 concise articles, the UDHR remains the foundation of universal protection of the dignity of mankind.

The theme for 2008, "*Dignity and justice for all of us*," reinforces the vision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as a commitment to universal dignity and justice. It is not a luxury or a wish-list. The UDHR and its core values, inherent human dignity, non-discrimination, equality, fairness and universality, apply to everyone, everywhere and always. The Declaration is universal, enduring and vibrant, and it concerns us all.

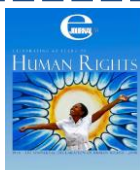
Since its adoption in 1948, the Declaration has been and continues to be a source of inspiration for national and international efforts to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

An essential element in the protection of human rights is a widespread knowledge and understanding among people of what their rights are and how they can be defended. The Declaration is now available in over 360 languages and is the most translated document in the world – a testament to its universal nature and reach. (Sources: <http://www.un.org/rights/>; <http://www.america.gov>)

### Human Rights Practices in Indonesia

Indonesia is a multiparty democracy with a population of approximately 245 million. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono became the country's first directly elected president in free and fair elections in 2004. The civilian authorities generally maintained effective control of the security forces, although the fact that the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) continued to be partly self-financed weakened this control.

The government generally respected the human rights of its citizens. During the year the government's Reformasi consolidated democratic gains with positive human rights developments in the following areas: the government prosecuted the 2004 murder of human rights activist Munir Said Thalib with increased transparency; the president signed a strong antitrafficking bill; and the police demonstrated marked improvements in human rights, particularly in handling a number of large-scale demonstrations without using lethal force. (Source: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100521.htm>)



#### E-Journal : SIXTY YEARS: CELEBRATING THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

This publication explores the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' origins, and explains how it has bettered the lives of individuals in every corner of the globe.  
<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html#1108>

## Indonesian Human Rights Organization Defenders

### Komnas HAM (National Human Rights Commission)



Commission. Komnas HAM was established under Presidential Decree 50/1993 and renewed as an independent institution upon the adoption of Law 39/1999, which defines its mandate, objectives, functions, organs and membership.

The goal of Komnas HAM is to promote the implementation and protection of human rights mechanisms based on the 1945 Constitution, the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Komnas HAM is also mandated to bring cases of human rights abuse to the Government, but has no legal enforcement power of its own. In order to deal with gross violations of human rights, Law 26/2000 on human rights courts was promulgated. Under this law, Komnas HAM is conferred with a mandate as a pro justitia inquirer. [www.komnasham.go.id](http://www.komnasham.go.id)



### Komnas Perempuan (National Commission on Violence Against Women)

Komnas Perempuan was established under Presidential Decree 181/1998. It is partly funded by the Government and partly by national and international organizations.

The first task of Komnas Perempuan was to investigate the sexual violence, mainly suffered by ethnic Chinese women, during the 1998 riots. Today, Komnas Perempuan focuses on the protection of women suffering domestic violence, women migrant workers, women victims of sexual violence undertaking court proceedings, women in armed conflict areas, and women heads of families living in poverty in rural areas. <http://www.komnasperempuan.or.id/>



### Mahkamah Konstitusi (Constitutional Court)

The core functions of the Court are to test the constitutionality of laws; to decide disputes between State organs; to decide disputes regarding general elections; to decide upon the dissolution of political parties; and to take a decision regarding the People's Legislative Assembly's opinion on alleged violations committed by the President and/or the Vice President. In additions, the Constitutional Court supports fundamental rights, especially the right to freedom of expression.

### Human rights courts

Law 26/2000 established four permanent human rights courts, in Jakarta, Surabaya, Makasar and Medan. Ad hoc human rights courts were set up to judge gross human rights violations before Law 26/2000 was passed, namely crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. Ad hoc human rights courts are composed of members of the judiciary and of academia.

In order for an ad hoc court to sit, a case must first be investigated by Komnas HAM upon authorization of the People's Legislative Assembly; then the findings of the initial investigation are passed to the Attorney-General, who decides whether the case is deemed relevant to be judged by an ad hoc human rights court.

(Source: <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/103/40/PDF/G0810340.pdf?OpenElement>)

### WEBLIOGRAPHY

- Background information on the Human Rights Day  
<http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/2007/>
- Full text of Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  - Indonesian version:  
<http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/indz.htm>
  - English version:  
<http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/eng.htm>
- Articles and photo gallery related to the human right topic  
<http://democracy.america.gov/democracy/rights/index.html>
- National Geographic – Human Rights Interactive  
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/12/departments/human-rights-interactive>
- United Nations Human Rights-Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx>
- United Nations Human Rights-Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights-Indonesian page  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AsiaRegion/Pages/IDIndex.aspx>